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(54) **FOLDING EDGE GUIDE ASSEMBLY FOR AN IMAGING APPARATUS**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
B41J 13/26 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **400/630**; 400/633; 400/632.1; 400/642; 271/226; 271/248; 271/249

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 400/624, 400/630, 631, 632.1, 633, 642, 633.1, 691, 400/692, 693; 271/127, 171, 223, 3.02, 240, 271/248, 250, 253, 162, 169, 226; 347/104
See application file for complete search history.

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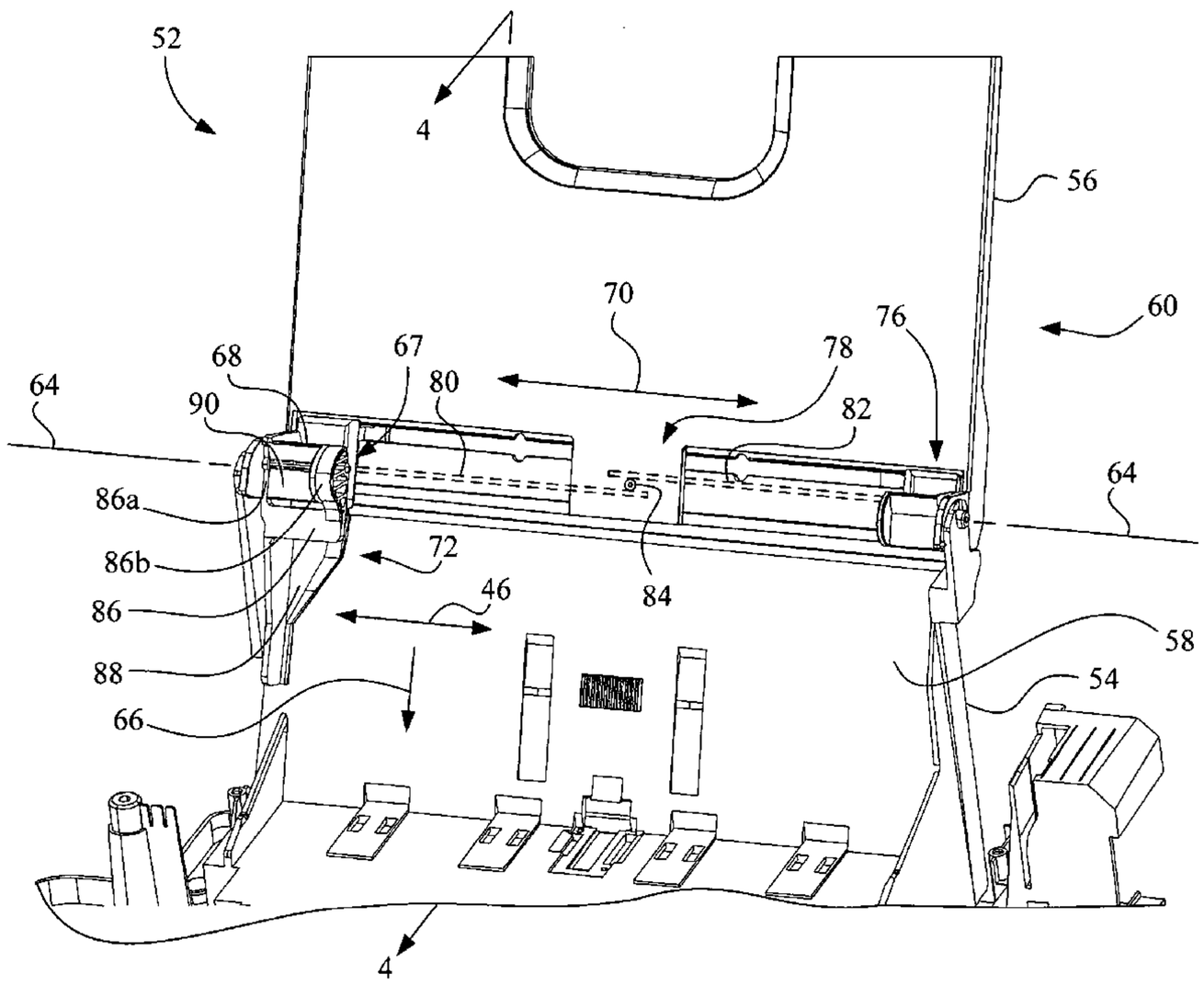
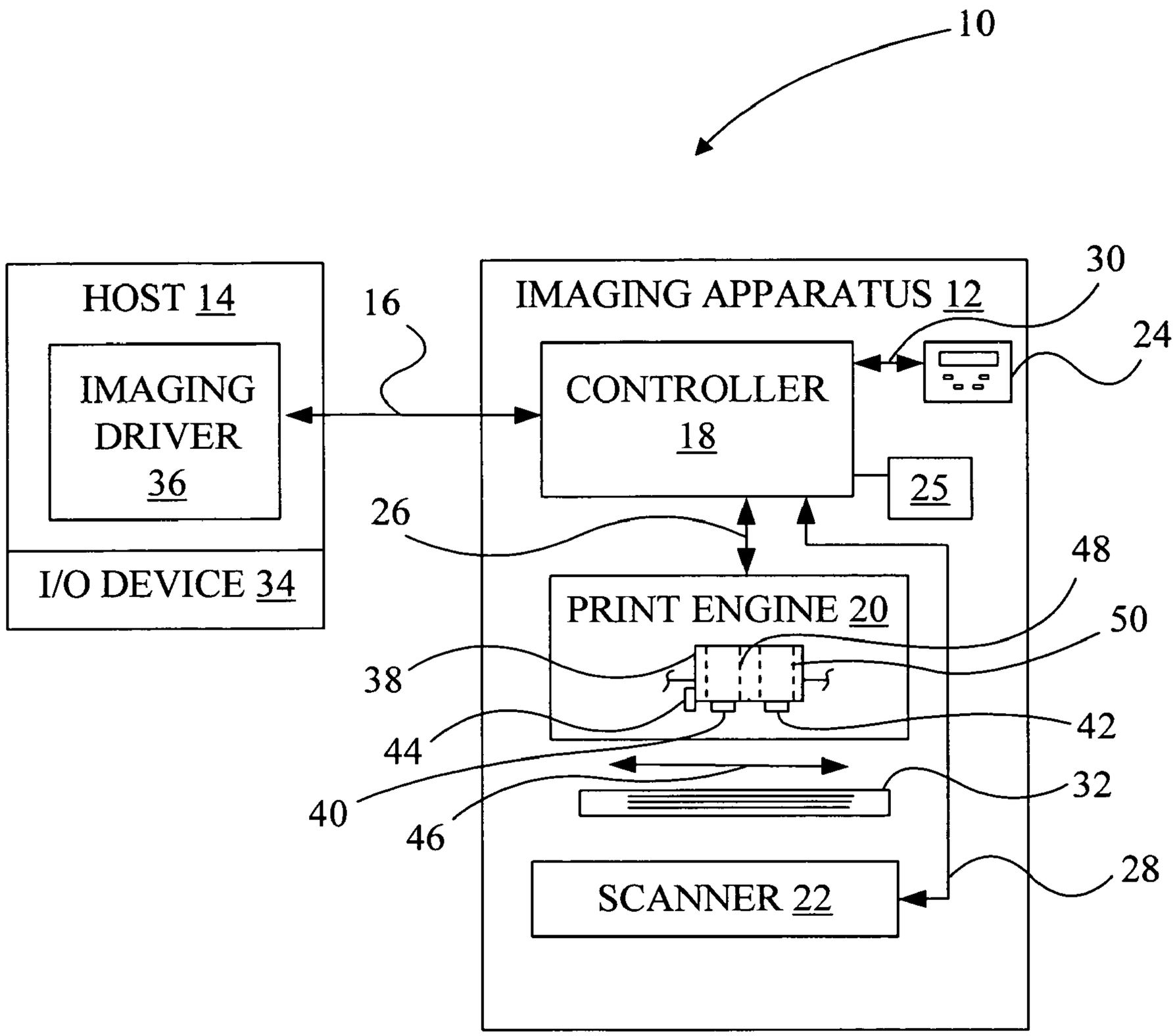
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A media edge guide assembly for use in an imaging apparatus having a media supply source includes a first edge guide portion and a second edge guide portion. The first edge guide portion and the second edge guide portion are arranged to have an axis of rotation passing through the first edge guide portion and the second edge guide portion. The first edge guide portion and the second edge guide portion are laterally interconnected to facilitate movement as a unit in a lateral direction along the axis of rotation, and the first edge guide portion and the second edge guide portion are configured to be rotationally disconnected with respect to the axis of rotation to permit the first edge guide portion to rotate around the axis of rotation independent of the second edge guide portion.

19 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

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HOST 14
IMAGING DRIVER 36
I/O DEVICE 34
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IMAGING APPARATUS 12
CONTROLLER 18
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PRINT ENGINE 20
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SCANNER 22
28

Fig. 1

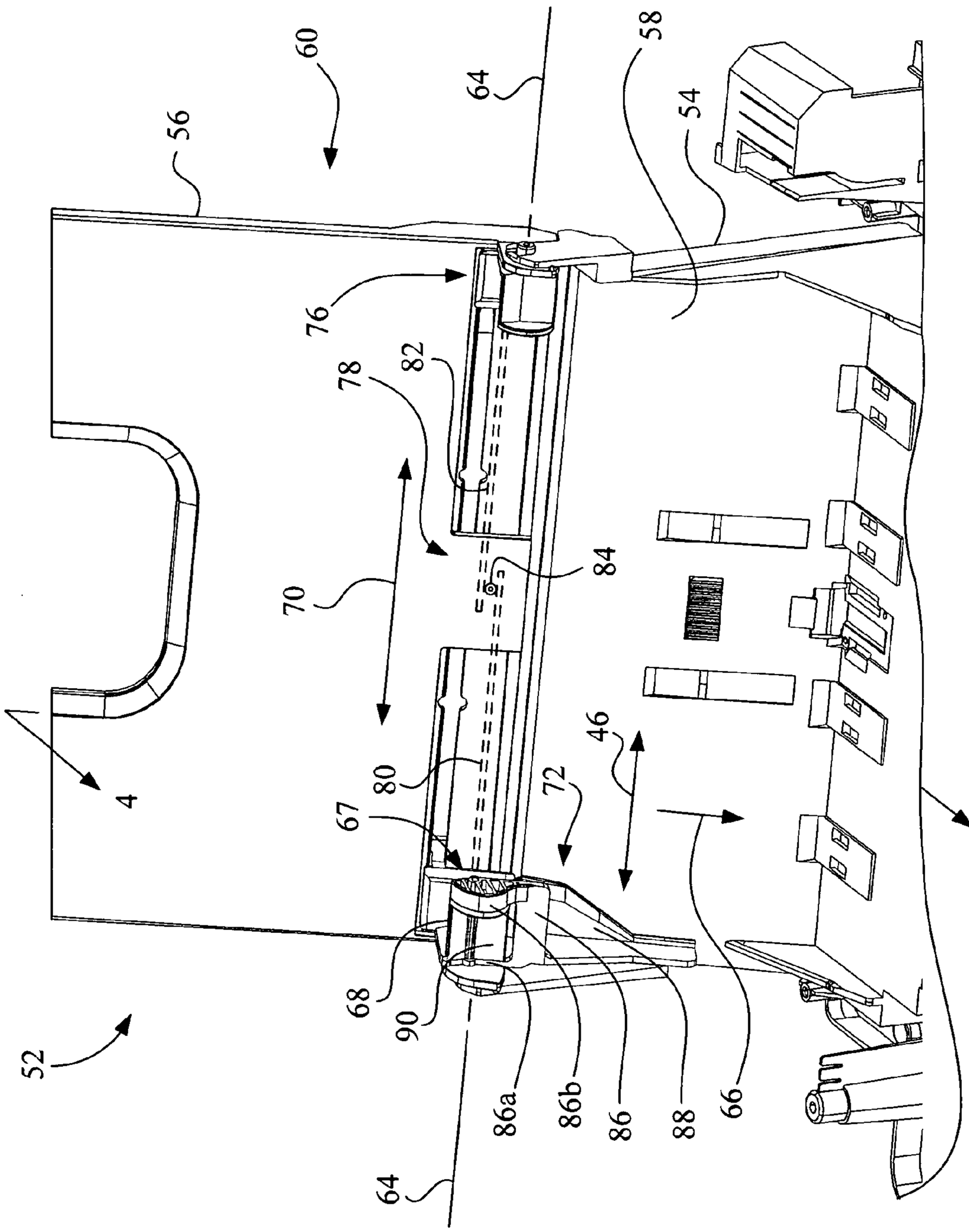
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Fig. 2

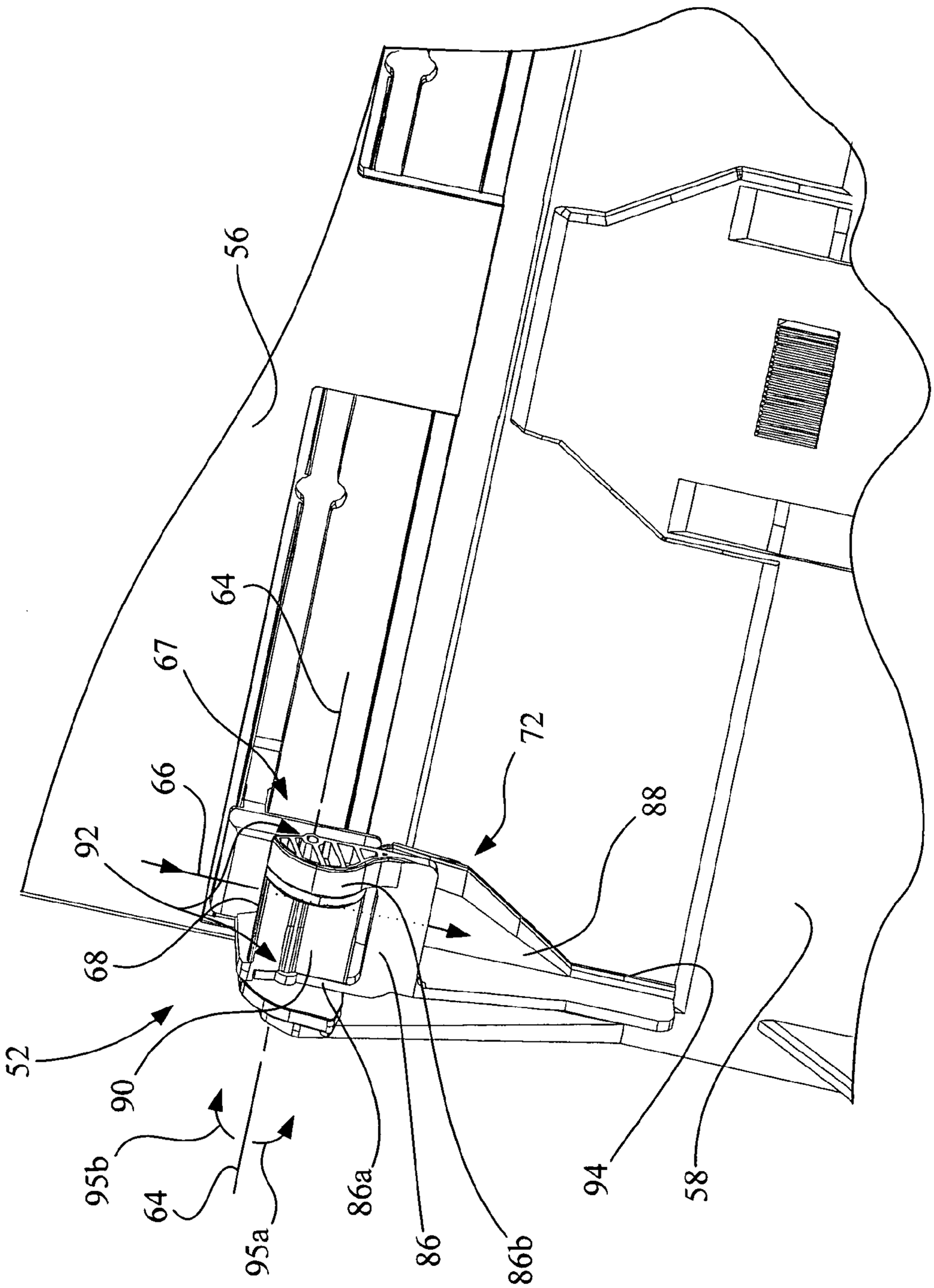

Fig. 3

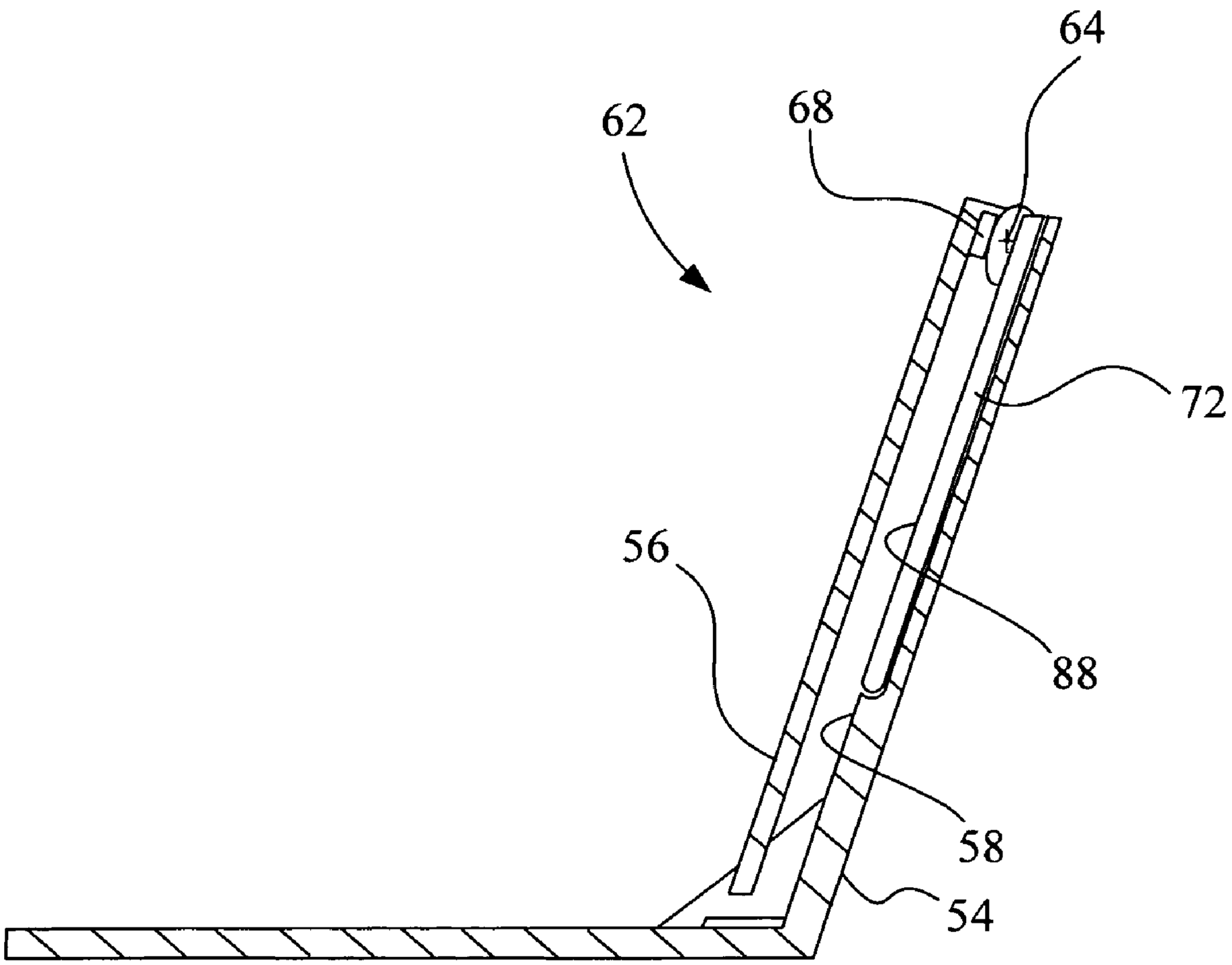

Fig. 4

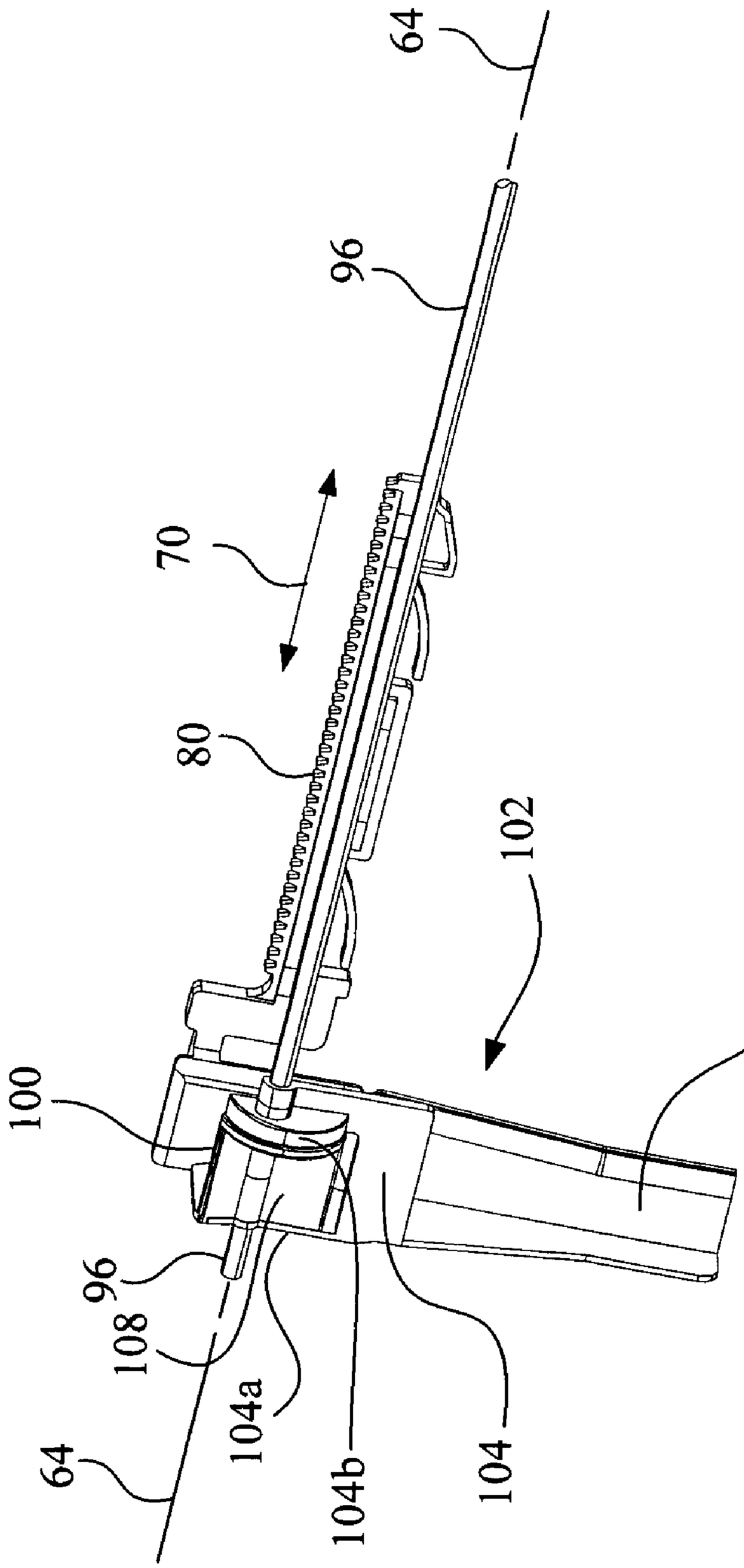

Fig. 5

FOLDING EDGE GUIDE ASSEMBLY FOR AN IMAGING APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an imaging apparatus, and, more particularly, to a folding edge guide assembly for an imaging apparatus.

2. Description of the Related Art

An imaging apparatus may be in the form of a printer, or a multifunction machine, also known as an all-in-one (AIO) machine, which includes scanning and copying capabilities in addition to printing.

The print engine of the printer or the AIO may include, for example, an ink jet print engine that typically forms an image on a sheet of print media by ejecting ink from at least one ink jet printhead to place ink dots on the sheet of print media. Such an ink jet print engine typically includes a reciprocating printhead carrier. Mounted to the carrier is one or more printhead cartridges, each including an ink supply and at least one printhead. The carrier transports the ink jet printheads across the sheet of print media along a bi-directional scanning path defining a print zone of the print engine. The bidirectional scanning path is oriented parallel to a main scan direction, also commonly referred to as the horizontal direction.

Typically, a sheet of print media is picked from a stack of print media supported in a media tray, and transported by a feed roller to the print zone for printing. An indexing mechanism drives the feed roller to incrementally advance the sheet of print media in a sheet feed direction, also commonly referred to as a sub-scan direction, through the print zone between scans in the main scan direction, or after all data intended to be printed on the sheet of print media at a particular stationary position has been completed.

Some imaging apparatus include a foldable media support. The foldable media support serves as an extension of a stationary base media support formed in the housing of the imaging apparatus. When the foldable media support is folded out to an operating position, a stack of print media may be accommodated. While it may be desirable to provide a media edge guide near to the middle of the stack height of the stack of print media, the location of the axis of rotation of the foldable media support has limited the placement of the media edge guide. In one such imaging apparatus utilizing such a configuration of the media support, for example, the media edge guide is mounted to the stationary base media support, and in turn, provides edge support only near the bottom of the stack of print media in the print media feed direction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention, in one form thereof, is directed to a media edge guide assembly for use in an imaging apparatus having a media supply source. The media edge guide assembly includes a first edge guide portion and a second edge guide portion. The first edge guide portion and the second edge guide portion are arranged to have an axis of rotation passing through the first edge guide portion and the second edge guide portion. The first edge guide portion and the second edge guide portion are laterally interconnected to facilitate movement as a unit in a lateral direction along the axis of rotation, and the first edge guide portion and the second edge guide portion are configured to be rotationally disconnected with respect to the axis of rotation to permit the first edge guide portion to rotate around the axis of rotation independent of the second edge guide portion.

The invention, in another form thereof, is directed to an imaging apparatus including a media supply source for feeding a sheet of media in a media feed direction. The imaging apparatus includes a base including a stationary media support. A movable media support is pivotably connected to the base to pivot around an axis of rotation. The axis of rotation is substantially orthogonal to the media feed direction. The movable media support has a stowed position and an operating position, wherein when the movable media support is in the operating position, the stationary media support and the movable media support cooperate to hold a supply of print media. A first edge guide portion is mounted to the movable media support. The first edge guide portion is movable in a lateral direction along the axis of rotation. A second edge guide portion operates as an extension of the first edge guide portion. The first edge guide portion and the second edge guide portion are laterally interconnected to move as a unit in the lateral direction along the axis of rotation to adjust to a width of the supply of print media. In addition, the first edge guide portion and the second edge guide portion are configured to be rotationally disconnected with respect to the axis of rotation to permit the first edge guide portion to rotate around the axis of rotation in conjunction with the movable media support independent of the second edge guide portion.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above-mentioned and other features and advantages of this invention, and the manner of attaining them, will become more apparent and the invention will be better understood by reference to the following description of embodiments of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. **1** is a diagrammatic depiction of a system embodying the present invention.

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of a media supply source of the imaging apparatus of FIG. **1** including a base having a stationary media support, and with a movable media support positioned in an operating position.

FIG. **3** is an enlarged portion of the media supply source of FIG. **2**.

FIG. **4** is a diagrammatic side sectional view of the media supply source of FIG. **2** with the movable media support positioned in a stowed position.

FIG. **5** is a perspective view of another embodiment of the folding media edge guide of the present invention.

Corresponding reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views. The exemplifications set out herein illustrate embodiments of the invention, and such exemplifications are not to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention in any manner.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring now to the drawings and particularly to FIG. **1**, there is shown a diagrammatic depiction of an imaging system **10**. Imaging system **10** may include an imaging apparatus **12** and a host **14**, with imaging apparatus **12** communicating with host **14** via a communications link **16**.

Imaging apparatus **12** may be configured to communicate with host **14** via a standard communication protocol, such as for example, universal serial bus (USB) or Ethernet. As used herein, the term "communications link" is used to generally refer to structure that facilitates electronic communication

between two components, and may operate using wired or wireless technology. Communications link **16** may be established, for example, by a direct cable connection, wireless connection or by a network connection such as for example an Ethernet local area network (LAN).

Alternatively, imaging apparatus **12** may be a standalone unit that is not communicatively linked to a host, such as host **14**. For example, imaging apparatus **12** may take the form of a multifunction machine, e.g., an all-in-one (AIO) device, which includes standalone copying and facsimile capabilities, in addition to optionally serving as a printer when attached to a host, such as host **14**. Imaging apparatus **12** includes, for example, a controller **18**, a print engine **20**, a scanner **22** and a user interface **24**.

Controller **18** includes a processor unit and associated memory, such as memory **25**, and may be formed as an Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC). Controller **18** communicates with print engine **20** via a communications link **26**. Controller **18** communicates with scanner **22** via a communications link **28**. Controller **18** communicates with user interface **24** via a communications link **30**. Communications links **26**, **28** and **30** may be established, for example, by using standard electrical cabling or bus structures, or by wireless connection.

In the context of the examples for imaging apparatus **12** given above, print engine **20** may be, for example, an ink jet print engine configured for forming an image on a sheet of print media **32**, such as a sheet of paper, transparency or fabric. As an ink jet print engine, for example, print engine **20** operates one or more printing cartridges and/or printheads to eject ink droplets onto the sheet of print media **32** in order to reproduce text and/or images.

Host **14** may be, for example, a personal computer including an input/output (I/O) device **34**, such as a keyboard and display monitor. Host **14** further includes a processor, input/output (I/O) interfaces, memory, such as RAM, ROM, NVRAM, and a mass data storage device, such as a hard drive, CD-ROM and/or DVD units. During operation, host **14** includes in its memory a software program including program instructions that function as an imaging driver **36**, e.g., printer driver software for imaging apparatus **12**. Imaging driver **36** is in communication with controller **18** of imaging apparatus **12** via communications link **16**. Imaging driver **36** facilitates communication between imaging apparatus **12** and host **14**, and may provide formatted print data to imaging apparatus **12**, and more particularly, to print engine **20**.

Alternatively, however, all or a portion of imaging driver **36** may be located in controller **18** of imaging apparatus **12**. For example, where imaging apparatus **12** is a multifunction machine having standalone capabilities, controller **18** of imaging apparatus **12** may include an imaging driver configured to support a scanning and/or copying function using scanner **22**, and/or a fax-print function, and may be further configured to support a printer function. Scanner **22** may be, for example, a bed type scanner with a movable scan bar, or a scanner that transports paper under a stationary scan bar. In one embodiment, for example, the imaging driver facilitates communication of formatted print data, as determined by a selected print mode, to print engine **20**, and facilitates communication of scanned image data to controller **18**.

Print engine **20** may include, for example, a reciprocating printhead carrier **38**, a color ink jet printhead **40**, a monochrome ink jet printhead **42** and (optionally) a reflectance sensor **44**. Controller **18** serves to process print data and to operate print engine **20** during printing, as well as to operate scanner **22**, process image data obtained via scanner **22**, and process printhead alignment data obtained by scanner **22** or reflectance sensor **44**. In order for print data from host **14** to be properly printed by print engine **20**, the RGB data generated by host **14** is converted into data compatible with print engine **20** and ink jet printheads **40**, **42**. Likewise, in order for scanner data from scanner **22** to be properly printed by print engine **20**, the RGB data generated by scanner **22** is converted into data compatible with print engine **20** and ink jet printheads **40**, **42**.

Printhead carrier **38** transports ink jet printheads **40**, **42** and reflectance sensor **44** in a reciprocation manner along a bidirectional main scan path **46** over an image surface of the sheet of print media **32** during printing and/or sensing operations. Printhead carrier **38** may be mechanically and electrically configured to mount, carry and facilitate one or more of each of a color printhead cartridge **48** and a monochrome printhead cartridge **50**. Each color printhead cartridge **48** may include, for example, an ink reservoir containing a supply of ink, to which at least one respective color ink jet printhead **40** is attached. Each monochrome printhead cartridge **50** may include, for example, an ink reservoir containing a supply of ink, to which at least one respective monochrome ink jet printhead **42** is attached. Alternatively, monochrome ink jet printhead **42** may be replaced by another color printhead, such as a photo printhead for jetting diluted color and mono inks.

Referring now to FIGS. **2-4**, imaging apparatus **12** includes a media supply source **52** formed by a base **54** and a movable media support **56**. In the present embodiment, base **54** includes a stationary media support **58**, and may provide, in part, a housing that contains print engine **20** and scanner **22**. When movable media support **56** is in an operating position **60**, as shown in FIG. **2**, movable media support **56** and stationary media support **58** combine to provide support a stack of print media (not shown), from which a sheet of print media **32** may be picked and fed to print engine **20** during a printing operation. FIG. **3** is an enlarged portion of the media supply source **52** of FIG. **2**. FIG. **4** is an exemplary diagrammatic side view of the media supply source **52** of FIG. **2**, showing movable media support **56** in a stowed position **62**, i.e., in a folded position. Movable media support **56** is pivotably connected to base **54**, such as by a pin and socket arrangement, to pivot around an axis of rotation **64**. Axis of rotation **64** is parallel to bi-directional main scan path **46**, and is substantially orthogonal to a media feed direction **66**.

In the exemplary embodiment shown in FIG. **4**, stowed position **62** is shown as a position wherein movable media support **56** has pivoted about 180 degrees from the operating position **60**. However, those skilled in the art will recognize that the stowed position **62** may be located at other angular displacements of movable media support **56** from operating position **60**, such as for example, when movable media support **56** is substantially horizontal. Accordingly, a hard stop may be provided within the pivot path of movable media support **56** to limit the amount of pivoting of movable media support **56** around axis of rotation **64**.

A first media edge guide **67** includes a first edge guide portion **68** and a second edge guide portion **72**. First edge guide portion **68** is mounted to movable media support **56**. First edge guide portion **68** is movable in a lateral direction **70** along axis of rotation **64**. Second edge guide portion **72** operates as an extension of first edge guide portion **68**. First edge guide portion **68** and second edge guide portion **72** are laterally interconnected to move as a unit in lateral direction **70** along axis of rotation **64** to adjust to a width of the supply of print media. In addition, first edge guide portion **68** and second edge guide portion **72** are configured to be rotationally disconnected with respect to axis of rotation **64** to permit first

edge guide portion **68** to rotate around axis of rotation **64** in conjunction with movable media support **56** independent of second edge guide portion **72**.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. **2**, first edge guide portion **68** and second edge guide portion **72** combine to form first media edge guide **67**, located on the left side of media supply source **52**, as shown. A second media edge guide **76** is laterally spaced apart from first media edge guide **67** along axis of rotation **64**. Second media edge guide **76** may have a configuration that is a mirror image of first media edge guide **67**, or, for example, may only include a portion corresponding to first edge guide portion **68**.

Referring to FIG. **2**, a rack gear system **78**, including rack gear **80**, rack gear **82** and pinion gear **84**, couples first media edge guide **67** to second media edge guide **76**. Rack gear system **78** is configured such that first media edge guide **67** and second media edge guide **76** move in unison in lateral direction **70** along axis of rotation **64**, but in opposite directions.

In the exemplary embodiment shown, second edge guide portion **72** includes a substantially U-shaped member **86** and an elongate member **88** extending from U-shaped member **86**. U-shaped member **86** is defined by a first arm **86***a* and a second arm **86***b*, wherein second arm **86***b* is spaced apart from first arm **86***a*. First edge guide portion **68** includes a body **90** received in U-shaped member **86** between first arm **86***a* and second arm **86***b*. As shown in FIG. **3**, axis of rotation **64** passes through first arm **86***a* of second edge guide portion **72**, body **90** of first edge guide portion **68**, and second arm **86***b* of second edge guide portion **72**. In the embodiment of FIGS. **2-4**, elongate member **88** of second edge guide portion **72** engages stationary media support **58** of base **54** without connection thereto.

Alternatively, in other embodiments, second edge guide portion **72** may be designed to have another shape other than a U-shape, if desired. For example, second edge guide portion **72** may have a single arm, thereby having a substantially L-shape configuration.

In the present embodiment, referring to FIG. **3**, a pivot mechanism **92**, e.g., a pin and socket arrangement, pivotably connects second edge guide portion **72** to first edge guide portion **68**. Pivot mechanism **92** is positioned such that first edge guide portion **68** pivots in relation to second edge guide portion **72** around axis of rotation **64**. As such, stationary media support **58** provides a stop **94** to prevent second edge guide portion **72** from pivoting around axis of rotation **64** when movable media support **56** is moved in pivot direction **95***a* toward stowed position **62**, shown in FIG. **4**. Pivoting movable media support **56** in pivot direction **95***b* returns movable media support **56** to the operating position **60** shown in FIG. **2**.

In an alternative embodiment, shown in FIG. **5**, a first edge guide portion **100** is not connected to a second edge guide portion **102** as in the previous embodiment. Rather, a rod **96** defines axis of rotation **64**, and permits first edge guide portion **100** to pivot with movable media support **56** in relation to stationary media support **58** and second edge guide portion **102**. Like the previous embodiment, however, first edge guide portion **100** and second edge guide portion **102** are laterally interconnected to move as a unit in lateral direction **70** along axis of rotation **64** to adjust to a width of the supply of print media. In addition, first edge guide portion **100** and second edge guide portion **102** are configured to be rotationally disconnected with respect to axis of rotation **64** to permit first edge guide portion **100** to rotate around axis of rotation **64** in conjunction with movable media support **56** independent of second edge guide portion **102**.

In the exemplary embodiment shown, second edge guide portion **102** includes a substantially U-shaped member **104** and an elongate member **106** extending from U-shaped member **104**. U-shaped member **104** is defined by a first arm **104***a* and a second arm **104***b*, wherein second arm **104***b* is spaced apart from first arm **104***a*. First edge guide portion **100** includes a body **108** received in U-shaped member **104** between first arm **104***a* and second arm **104***b*. Rod **96**, and in turn axis of rotation **64**, passes through first arm **104***a* of second edge guide portion **102**, body **108** of first edge guide portion **100**, and second arm **104***b* of second edge guide portion **102**.

While this invention has been described with respect to embodiments of the invention, the present invention may be further modified within the spirit and scope of this disclosure. This application is therefore intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention using its general principles. Further, this application is intended to cover such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice in the art to which this invention pertains and which fall within the limits of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A media edge guide assembly for use in an imaging apparatus having a media supply source that includes a base having a stationary media support, and a movable media support pivotably connected to said base to pivot around an axis of rotation, comprising:

a first edge guide portion; and

a second edge guide portion, said first edge guide portion and said second edge guide portion being arranged to have said axis of rotation pass through said first edge guide portion and said second edge guide portion, said second edge guide portion being pivotably connected to said first edge guide portion at said axis of rotation,

said first edge guide portion and said second edge guide portion being laterally interconnected to facilitate movement as a unit in a lateral direction along said axis of rotation relative to said stationary media support and said movable media support, and said first edge guide portion and said second edge guide portion being configured to permit said first edge guide portion to rotate around said axis of rotation independent of said second edge guide portion and such that said first edge guide portion is not mounted to said second edge guide portion so as to be not rotationally connected to the other.

2. The media edge guide assembly of claim **1**, wherein:

said second edge guide portion includes a substantially U-shaped member and an elongate member extending from said U-shaped member, said U-shaped member being defined by a first arm and a second arm, said second arm being spaced apart from said first arm; and

said first edge guide portion includes a body, said body being received in said U-shaped member between said first arm and said second arm.

3. The media edge guide assembly of claim **2**, wherein said axis of rotation passes through said first arm of said second edge guide portion, said body of said first edge guide portion, and said second arm of said second edge guide portion.

4. The media edge guide assembly of claim **1**, further comprising a rod arranged along said axis of rotation, said rod passing through said first edge guide portion and said second edge guide portion.

5. A media edge guide assembly for use in an imaging apparatus having a media supply source, wherein said media supply source includes a base having a stationary media support, and a movable media support pivotably connected to said base to pivot around an axis of rotation, comprising:

a first edge guide portion, wherein said first edge guide portion is mounted to said movable media support; and

a second edge guide portion, said first edge guide portion and said second edge guide portion being arranged to have said axis of rotation pass through said first edge guide portion and said second edge guide portion, said second edge guide portion being pivotably connected to said first edge guide portion at said exit of rotation,

said first edge guide portion and said second edge guide portion being laterally interconnected to facilitate movement as a unit in a lateral direction along said axis of rotation relative to said movable media support, and said first edge guide portion and said second edge guide portion and said second edge portion being configured to be rotationally disconnected with respect to said axis of rotation to permit said first edge guide portion to rotate around said axis of rotation independent of said second edge guide portion.

6. The media edge guide assembly of claim **5**, further comprising a pivot mechanism pivotably connecting said second edge guide portion to said first edge guide portion.

7. The media edge guide assembly of claim **6**, wherein said pivot mechanism is positioned such that said first edge guide portion pivots in relation to said second edge guide portion around said axis of rotation.

8. The media edge guide assembly of claim **5**, wherein said second edge guide portion extends from said first edge guide portion into said stationary media support.

9. The media edge guide assembly of claim **8**, wherein said stationary media support provides a stop to prevent said second edge guide portion from pivoting around said axis of rotation when said movable media support is moved toward a stowed position.

10. An imaging apparatus including a media supply source for feeding a sheet of media in a media feed direction, comprising:

a base including a stationary media support;

a movable media support pivotably connected to said base to pivot around an axis of rotation, said axis of rotation being substantially orthogonal to said media feed direction, said movable media support having a stowed position and an operating position, wherein when said movable media support is in said operating position, said stationary media support and said movable media support cooperate to hold a supply of print media;

a first edge guide portion mounted to said movable media support, said first edge guide portion being movable in a lateral direction along said axis of rotation; and

a second edge guide portion operating as an extension of said first edge guide portion, said second edge guide portion being pivotably connected to said first edge guide portion at said axis of rotation, said first edge guide portion and said second edge guide portion being laterally interconnected to move as a unit in said lateral direction along said axis of rotation relative to said stationary media support and said movable media support to adjust to a width of said supply of print media, and said first edge guide portion and said second edge guide portion being configured to be rotationally disconnected with respect to said axis of rotation to permit said first edge guide portion to rotate around said axis of rotation in conjunction with said movable media support independent of said second edge guide portion.

11. The imaging apparatus of claim **10**, wherein:

said second edge guide portion includes a substantially U-shaped member and an elongate member extending from said U-shaped member, said U-shaped member being defined by a first arm and a second arm, said second arm being spaced apart from said first arm; and

said first edge guide portion includes a body received in said U-shaped member between said first arm and said second arm.

12. The imaging apparatus of claim **11**, wherein said axis of rotation passes through said first arm of said second edge guide portion, said body of said first edge guide portion, and said second arm of said second edge guide portion.

13. The imaging apparatus of claim **11**, wherein said elongate member of said second edge guide portion engages said stationary media support of said base without connection thereto.

14. The imaging apparatus of claim **10**, further comprising a pivot mechanism pivotably connecting said second edge guide portion to said first edge guide portion.

15. The imaging apparatus of claim **14**, wherein said pivot mechanism is positioned such that said first edge guide portion pivots in relation to said second edge guide portion around said axis of rotation.

16. The imaging apparatus of claim **15**, wherein said stationary media support provides a stop to prevent said second edge guide portion from pivoting around said axis of rotation when said movable media support is moved toward said stowed position.

17. The imaging apparatus of claim **10**, wherein said first edge guide portion and said second edge guide portion combine to form a first edge guide, and further comprising:

a second edge guide laterally spaced apart from said first edge guide along said axis of rotation; and

a rack gear system coupling said first edge guide to said second edge guide, said rack gear system being configured such that said first edge guide and said second edge guide move in unison in a lateral direction along said axis of rotation, but in opposite directions.

18. The imaging apparatus of claim **10**, further comprising a rod arranged along said axis of rotation, said rod passing through said first edge guide portion and said second edge guide portion.

19. A media edge guide assembly for use in an imaging apparatus having a media supply source that includes a base having a stationary media support, and a movable media support pivotably connected to said base to pivot around an axis of rotation, comprising:

a first edge guide portion mounted to said movable media support and configured to pivot around said axis of rotation with said movable media support; and

a second edge guide portion pivotably connected to said first edge guide portion at said axis of rotation, said second edge guide portion being thereby configured to allow said first edge guide portion to pivot around said axis of rotation independent of said second edge guide portion,

said first edge guide portion and said second edge guide portion being laterally interconnected to facilitate movement as a unit in a lateral direction along said axis of rotation relative to said stationary media support and said movable media support.

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